

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26-28 are pending after the present cancellation of Claims 4 and 19 and the correction of the withdrawn claims identified in the office action. The status identifiers of the present claims and renumbering of Claims 28-30 comply with the examiner's description on page 3 of the office action.

The present amendment merges Claim 4 into Claim 1 and Claim 19 into Claim 17. Claims 4 and 19 related to the random selection of the number of subsequent base games to which the one or more features will apply. This refers to the "power games selector 30" in Fig. 1, described on pages 4-5 of the specification. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 4 and 19 is the most pertinent.

Claims 1 and 17 have also been clarified to recite that the feature randomly applied to the base game provides "a temporary enhancement to the base game to be applied to at least one subsequent base game, the one or more features acting to increase an award value or increase a player's chances of winning an award when playing the base game." Thus, free games are not included in the claimed "features" since they do not augment the base game by acting to increase an award value or increase a player's chances of winning an award when playing the base game. Free games are just base games. This clarification of the meaning of a "feature" is consistent with the features shown in Fig. 1 and consistent with the limitations of Claims 4 and 19 merged into the independent claims.

Claim 11 has been amended to be consistent with amended Claim 1.

The examiner rejected Claims 4 and 9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nordman (US 6,905,407).

Nordman discloses various embodiments of bonus features that are enabled upon a triggering event. The bonus features augment awards or are awards in themselves. Even though some awards grant free games (see Fig. 4), such awards are not included in the term "feature" in amended Claims 1 and 17, as described above. The Nordman bonus features only apply one time to the award phase of the present base game. The Nordman selected features

do not apply to any subsequent game, and there is no suggestion by Nordman to randomly select how many subsequent games the features will apply to.

Regarding Claims 4 and 19, the examiner stated that "Nordman teaches randomly selecting comprises randomly selecting a number of base games to which the one or more features will apply (Fig. 4)." The only random award relating to subsequent games in Fig. 4 is the award of free base games/spins, which is presumed to be what the examiner was referring to in the rejection. However, Claims 1 and 17 have been clarified to preclude free games being the claimed "one or more features." There is a very big difference between free games and a feature that applies to the base game that increases an award value or increases a player's chances of winning an award when playing the base game. A free game is just a base game.

Accordingly, since all claims depend on Claims 1 and 17, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable.

Please telephone the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 ex. 202, if there are any questions or suggested claim amendments.

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